

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of expressing proteins comprising the steps of

(a) placing a DNA sequence encoding a protein or peptide in an expression vector comprising a regulatable promoter expressible in *Rhodospirillum rubrum*, wherein the DNA sequence encoding the protein or peptide is operably connected to the promoter, and

(b) expressing the protein within a bacterial host, wherein the host has extra capacity for membrane formation and wherein the host is a member of the genus *Rhodospirillum*.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the protein or peptide is a membrane protein or peptide.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the protein or peptide is a heterologous protein or peptide.

4 – 10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the host is *Rhodospirillum rubrum* P5 or *Rhodospirillum rubrum* P4.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the expression vector comprises a promoter that can be induced by reduction of oxygen tension.

13. (Currently Amended) A protein expression system comprising:
a vector comprising a DNA molecule encoding a protein or peptide in an expression vector comprising a regulatable promoter expressible in *R. rubrum*, wherein the vector is contained within a host of the genus *Rhodospirillum* and wherein the host has extra capacity for membrane formation and wherein the DNA molecule encoding the protein or peptide is operably connected to the promoter.

14. (Original) The protein expression system of claim 13 wherein the protein or peptide is a heterologous protein or peptide.

15. (Original) The protein expression system of claim 13 wherein the protein or peptide is a membrane protein or peptide.

16 – 22 (Cancelled)